

LH239 (E)

The Treadwell Family of Lighthorne

by Robin (Bob) Berry (2020)

edited by Colin Such

My grandparents, Frank Valentine Berry (born 1880) and Sarah Ann Elizabeth Berry (born 1883), are buried in Lighthorne churchyard and are recorded in the burial register. Sarah was born a Treadwell and her parents, Sarah Ann (née Hunt, born 1859) and William Treadwell (born 1853), lived at what was then Church Cottage (now Fairfield) and had 13 children, 11 girls and 2 boys. My grandmother was the eldest. I believe she went into service at Compton Verney.



Treadwell family
grave, St Laurence
churchyard,
Lighthorne.

Photo: Colin Such

When she married my grandfather they lived for a very short time in Wilmcote, then rented a house at Aston Cantlow called Pear Tree Cottage. My father was born there in 1914. In 1917 they moved to Poplar Cottage, Pathlow, which they bought. My grandmother was a very strong but kind woman. Having seen what a large family could do to finances, my father was an only child.



Wedding day of my grandparents, Frank Valentine Berry [8] and Sarah Ann Elizabeth Treadwell [10], on 21 April 1908, Church Cottage, Lighthorne.

This first picture is taken in the garden of Church Cottage (now renamed Fairfield and much extended). Sarah's mother, Sarah Ann Treadwell, née Hunt [17] is the one with a baby on her lap, who I think is Marjorie [18], number 12 of her 13 children. My grandmother's (the bride's) father, William Treadwell b. 1853 [7] is standing next to my grandfather, the groom, Frank Valentine Berry [8]. The lad with the cap is Fredrick Henry [19], one of the 13 children, who was 12 at the time. The groom's parents are next to Sarah, his father, Charles Richard Berry [11] standing in the top hat and mother sitting down [20]. The two girls holding flowers are the bridesmaids [21, 22]. They are two of Sarah's sisters. Other Treadwell sisters are [5], [12], [15], [24] Iris Amelia, [25] Ida Miriam and [26] Norah Frances. The boy on the extreme left is William Joseph Treadwell b. 1893 [4], one of the only two boys in the family of 13 siblings. William (Bill) served in WW1 and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He died during the war and is buried in a war grave in the church graveyard. His sister, Norah [26], died aged 20, in 1918, only one month later, I am told of a broken heart. Berry siblings are [16] Gertrude (?), [14] Herbert Harry (?) and [23]. The Rev. David Turner MA [6] was the minister who officiated at the wedding.



The second picture is of the Treadwell family with Rita Kathleen, the youngest of the 13 children yet to be born. Key: [1] ? [2] William Joseph b. 1893 [3] ? [4] ? [5] ? [6] ? [7] Norah Frances, [8] William b. 1853 [9] Sarah Ann b. 1859 [10] Sarah Ann Elizabeth b. 1883 [11] Freda Margery [12] Ida Miriam [13] Frederick Henry [14] Iris Amelia



The third picture shows William Treadwell b.1853, Sarah's father [1] seated, standing next to him the best man [2], possibly Herbert Harry Berry, Frank's brother. Seated are the groom, Frank Valentine Berry [3] and bride, Sarah Ann Elizabeth Treadwell b. 1883 [4]. To Sarah's left are her 2 bridesmaids [5, 6], whom I think were Sarah's sisters. The face peering around the doorway [7] is that of Sarah's brother, Frederick Henry. William Treadwell b. 1853 [1] was the village carpenter and, I think, undertaker. I vaguely recall my grandmother telling me about a coffin on the back of a horse-drawn cart with her father driving.

The fourth picture shows the bride and groom, my grandparents.



LOT 68.

(Coloured *Brown* on Plan No. 3).

**SINGLE COTTAGE WITH BUILDINGS AND TWO ACRES
OF GOOD SOUND PASTURE LAND.**

No. 100 and Pt. 101a on the Plan, and extending to

2.194 ACRES.

The Cottage is brick built and thatched, and has 3 Bedrooms and 2 Living Rooms, with the usual Offices. There is a good Garden attached to the Cottage, which is let to Mrs. Treadwell on a Monthly Tenancy at an annual Rent of £3 5s. 0d.

There is a well of good Water in the Garden, and a Brook runs through the Meadow.

The Outbuildings are :—

Wood and iron Pigstye and Shed, timber and thatch Cart Shed, brick and tile Open Boiler House and E.C.

There are 3 further Pigstyes, two of which are let to Messrs. Hunt and Hobday at an apportioned rent of 1s. each per annum.

The Pasture Land is let to Mr. Hy. Talbot on a yearly Michaelmas Tenancy at an annual rent of £5.

The total rental from this Lot is therefore **£8 7s. 0d.** per annum, and so far as the Vendors are aware there are no Outgoings.

Extract from LH125 September 10 1929 James Styles & Whitlock catalogue
of the Compton Verney Estate sale.

J. R. PHILLIPS,
SOLICITOR.

Stratford-on-Avon.

~~Mr.~~ F. V. Berry Esq.,

Dr. to

J. R. Phillips,
Solicitor.

1929 }
September }
to }
1930 }
January }

To my professional charges in relation
to perusing Contract, investigating title and
preparing and completing Conveyance of land
and Cottage comprising Lot 68 at the recent
Auction Sale and forming part of the Compton
Verney Estate, Warwickshire, purchased by you
from G. H. Morgan, Esq., for £230.

As per scale.

6. 13. 4.

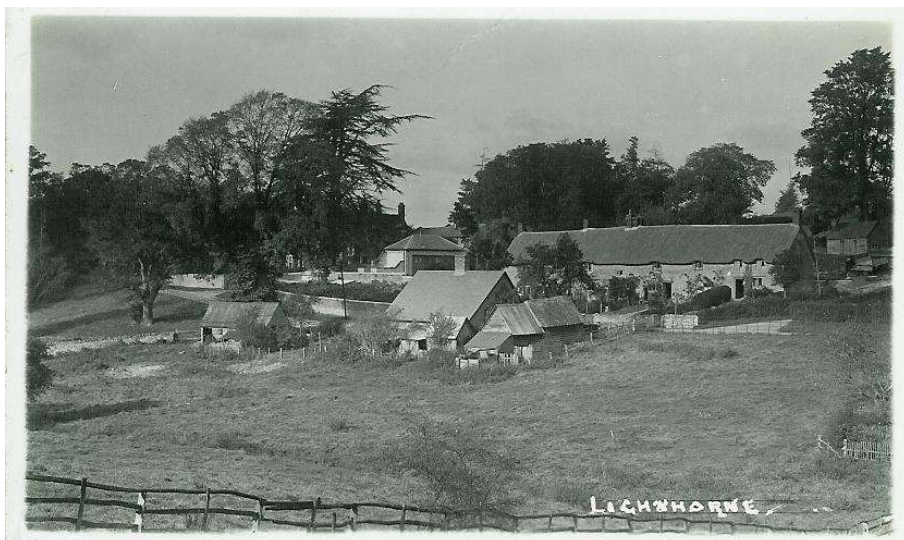
DISBURSEMENTS:-

Plan - 8. 0.
Ralls and expenses to Leamington (proportion) - 2. 6.
Stamp 1. 5. 0.
Search fees in Land and Local Registries etc - 7. 8.

£ 8. 16. 6.

In 1929 my grandfather, Frank Berry, purchased Church Cottage from the Compton Verney Estate via auction sale, as lot 68. The purchase price was £230. His mother-in-law, Sarah Treadwell (born 1859) was the tenant and remained there until she died on 24 October 1948. Iris, one of her daughters also lived there with her husband Dudley Perry whom she had married in April 1925. They had one child, Jean, who married Herbert Camm. Jean and Herbert (Bert) lived in Lighthorne at Sunny Bank on The Bank. They had no children.





Church Cottage and (behind)
the row of Church Cottages,
circa 1930s.

Photo: Colin Such

J. R. PHILLIPS,
SOLICITOR.

Stratford-on-Avon.

Mrs. S. A. E. Berry.

Dr. to

J. R. Phillips,
Solicitor.

1929
November
to
1930
January.)

To my professional charges in relation to
perusing Contract, investigating title and
preparing and completing Conveyance of freehold
land and three Cottages comprising Lot 90 at the
recent Auction Sale and forming part of The
Compton Verney Estate, Warwickshire, purchased by
you from G. H. Morgan Esq., for £200

As per scale) 6. 13. 4

DISBURSEMENTS:-

Plan	-	8. 0
Rails and expenses to Leamington (proportion)				-	2. 6
Stamp	1. 0. 0	
Search fees in Land and Local Registries etc.				-	7. 8

				£	8. 11. 6

My grandmother, Sarah Berry, bought a row of 3 other cottages in the village from the auction sale. The lot number was 90 and the price paid was £200. The tenants at the time of the sale were Mr H. Hunt, Mr G. Adams and Mr E. Tomlin. The property is now 2 houses, Stonecroft and Ivy Cottage, opposite the Old Schoolhouse on Old School Lane.

R. M. 1/30
J. R. Phillips




Church Cottage in the 1950s.

Photo: Colin Such

I remember Church Cottage from the late 1950s to the early 1960s. It was as in the 1908 photos, except it was no longer thatched. It was still 3 rooms downstairs and 3 upstairs. I have no idea where all the Treadwells slept. The water came from the well in the garden. The lavatory was opposite the front door, which was the other side of the house from where the pictures were taken. It was in a wooden shed about 5m from the front door and was a wooden board with a hole in it. Waste was, if I recall correctly, collected weekly. The lavatory paper was cut sheets of newspaper on a string holder. My father had a bathroom and proper kitchen put in and mains water and sewerage connected in about 1961. I think Iris and husband Dudley Perry lived there with their daughter Jean, but I only remember Iris living there as Dudley died in 1953.

I can remember the piles of horseshoes outside the blacksmiths and as kids we used to get a one penny bag of sweets at the shop, which was on a corner near the Antelope, if I remember correctly.



John Cole outside his father's smithy, with pile of horseshoes on the left, March 1961.

Photo: John Hill



Village shop, opposite
Smithy Cottage,
Church Lane, 1961.

Photo: Ben Wright

After Iris died my father, who then owned Church Cottage, let it on the open market, but finding a reasonable tenant was difficult and he decided to sell in the mid 1960s. Until a few years ago I continued my father's practice of putting a wreath on my grandparents' grave at Christmas. I was in Lighthorne last about 4 years ago and went and looked at the church and family graves.

Research by Ann Such - extract from LH182(E)

World War 1 soldiers commemorated on the Lighthorne War Memorial



William Joseph Treadwell
(1893 – 1918)

William Joseph Treadwell 1893 - 1918 Sergeant 65281 Royal Garrison Artillery died in the UK 9 October 1918

William was born in Q4 1893 and was christened in Lighthorne on 29 October 1893. His parents William and Sarah Ann (nee Hunt) had married in Bishops Itchington on 30 July 1882. Both his father William and grandfather Joseph were carpenters living in Lighthorne. In 1911 William was aged 17 and still living in Lighthorne with his father, then aged 57, a carpenter on the Compton Verney estate and his mother, then 49, who had given birth to 13 children, all of whom were still living. He was working as a carpenter's labourer, also on the estate.

William's army service records can be found in WO363, the collection known as the Burnt Records and recorded by the War Office. The records were affected by a fire in the building where they were being stored in 1940. Only 20-30% survived the fire, but many are only fragments or have suffered damage. These records are now online at ancestry.co.uk and the information which follows is taken from them.

William attested (Short Service for the duration of the war) to join the Royal Garrison Artillery Plymouth in Birmingham on 17 January 1916. At attestation he was 22 years and 4 months old, 5 feet 8 inches tall and was living at 9 Lower Queen Street, Sutton Coldfield. He was a police constable and written on the top of the form is Warwickshire Constabulary Sutton Coldfield. The County of Warwickshire Roll of Honour 1914 – 2005 notes that he is also commemorated on the Warwickshire Constabulary Roll of Honour, Leek Wootton.

He is recorded as being part of the army reserve on 18 January 1916, was mobilised on 13 March 1916 and posted as a gunner. His attestation was certified correct at the Citadel, Plymouth on 18 March 1916. William was promoted from private to gunner on 13 March 1916 and promoted further to corporal at Woolwich on 27 March 1917. On that date he embarked from Southampton and disembarked at Havre on 28 March 1917 en route to Italy where he won his DCM.

William was promoted to sergeant with the 289th Siege Battery on 1 July 1917 and on 27 March 1918 was attached to XIV Corps Artillery School. He is recorded as a casualty in the field on 22 April but rejoined his unit on 26 April. He is included as a casualty again on 24 August and was sent to the XIV Corps Rest Camp at Sermione, rejoining his unit on 30 August. He again is shown as a casualty on 1 September, sent to the Rest Camp and rejoined his unit on 6 September. He is shown as leaving the unit on 28 September and being sent back to the UK via Havre.

William was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), awarded to non-commissioned officers for bravery. The full citation which was published in the London Gazette of 3 September 1919 reads as follows:

65281 Sjt. W.J. Treadwell, 289th Sge. By., R.G.A. (Lightborne, nr. Warwick) (ITALY)

For gallantry and devotion to duty during the period 26th February to 14th September, 1918, during which time he has shown the most unfailing devotion to duty, and has commanded his subsection conspicuously well. He has never failed to encourage his men when under shell fire, and this was particularly noticeable on the 15th June, when on the Altipiano his battery was exposed to an intense and protracted enemy bombardment, both of gas and high explosive. His coolness and personal gallantry were such as not only to inspire his own detachment to continue their service of their gun accurately and well, but also to set an example to the entire battery.

By 1914 a policy was already in place in the UK, ear-marking public buildings for use as auxiliary hospitals in times of war. The auxiliary hospitals were attached to central military hospitals and the patients remained under military control. In August 1914 the Royal Victoria Patriotic School in Wandsworth had become the Third London General Hospital and it was to this hospital that William was admitted on 6 October 1918. From here he was moved to The Garland Home, Norfolk Street, Park Lane. This website <http://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/garlandhome.html> gives details of the house. Built in 1913-16 and sold to Mr Penryn Vaughan-Morgan, No. 4 Norfolk Street became a military hospital known as the Garland Home in 1917 with 36 beds for sick and wounded officers. The Home closed in 1919 and the street where it stands has since been renamed Dunraven Street.

A 'Morning State of Sick' form dated 10 October 1918 from the Third London General Hospital records that William died at the Garland Home at midnight on 9 October 1918 of pneumonia and syncope (a transient loss of consciousness). The form notes 'To be buried by Mother at Leamington Spa. Address: Lighthorne, nr. Warwick'. The Garland Home sent a telegram to RGA Record Office Dover, reporting the death and noting 'mother present'. Subsequently on 5 November 1918 the RGA Record Office wrote to William's mother, acknowledging the notification and describing William as dying 'whilst on leave from Italy'.

William was buried in Lighthorne churchyard alongside his father, William, who died before his son attested, on 23 September 1915 aged 62, and his mother Sarah Ann who died on 24 October 1949 aged 88. Also buried next to William are his sisters Norah Francis, who only survived him by one month, dying on 24 November 1918 aged 20, and Gladys who died on 14 April 1929 aged 43.

On 13 June 1919 the Office in charge of Records at RGA Dover sent William's mother, as next of kin, a form to complete in order that his plaque and scroll could be sent to the appropriate person. She needed to enter her own details, (and the details of her husband if he had still been alive) and list all of William's living siblings. One brother and ten sisters were duly listed. The form then had to be certified by a Minister or Magistrate. William's mother took the form to the Magistrate at the Estate Office, Kington where it was certified on 16 June, and then returned it to RGA, Dover where it was received on 18 June 1919. This is surely testimony to the responsible attitude to form filling and excellent postal service at that time.



Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone of Sgt W.J. Treadwell D.C.M., Lighthorne churchyard.

Photo: Colin Such